

What is claimed is:

1. A multimedia collaboration system for free flow collaboration between a plurality of participants via an electronic communication network, the multimedia collaboration system configured so that presentation control of the session is exchanged freely between the participants in the multimedia collaboration session.
2. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of participants is assigned equal privilege levels.
3. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein a presenter role can be assumed by any of the plurality of participants at any time during the collaborative session.
4. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein presentation materials can be shared freely under the control of any of the plurality of participants.
5. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the presentation material can comprise any type of media supported by the electronic communications network.
6. The multimedia collaboration session of claim 1, wherein the plurality of participants designate which of the plurality of participants will act as a presenter.

7. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, further configured to allow multiple presentations to be presented by the plurality of participants at the same time.

8. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, further configured to allow each of the plurality of participants to choose which of the multiple presentations to view.

9. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 8, further configured to allow each of the plurality of participants to change the presentation being viewed.

10. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, further comprising a central shared presentation area that can be controlled by any one of the plurality of participants at any given time.

11. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, further comprising a central server interfaced with the electronic communication network, the central server configured to coordinate the distribution of media streams associated with the collaborative session between the plurality of participants as required.

12. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, further configured to allow the plurality of participants to speak with any of the other participants at any time.

13. A multimedia collaboration system comprising a client device configured to enable a participant to participate in a collaboration session, the client device including:

a user interface comprising:

an identification section;

a current presentation section; and

a control section including an opened presentation feature wherein a the participant can independently open and control a presentation at any time during the collaboration session.

14. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the client device further comprises client software configured to send media streams from the client device.

15. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 14, further comprising a central server interfaced with the client device, wherein the client software is further configured to send control commands to the central server.

16. The multimedia collaboration session of claim 15, wherein the control commands comprise instructions requesting that the central server begin receiving media streams from the client device and relay them to other client devices participating in the collaborative session.

17. The multimedia collaboration session of claim 16, wherein any of the other client devices can send a similar control command at any time.

18. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the central server is configured to implement the most recently received control command.

19. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the central server is configured to arbitrarily implement one of two simultaneously received control command.

20. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the identification section further includes a presentation title.

21. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 20, wherein the presentation title changes to reflect the current presentation in the session.

22. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the identification section further includes the presenting participant's identity.

23. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the identification section further includes a recording indicator.

24. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further comprises a live history section including information corresponding to materials presented in the collaboration session.

25. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 24, wherein the information displayed in the live history section is a series of iconic representations.

26. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 25, wherein the live history section scrolls through the information displayed.

27. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 26, wherein the movement of the information displayed in the live history section can be independently adjusted by the participant.

28. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 25, wherein a particular subset of the information displayed in the live history section can be independently selected by the participant.

29. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 25, wherein at least one iconic representation is associated with a link corresponding to material stored on the client device.

30. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 29, wherein the material stored on the client device is distributed and stored on the client device at the time the collaborative session is initiated.

31. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a presentation views control feature to select a format in which presented material is viewed.

32. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a synch to presenter feature.

33. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a phone icon.

34. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a video icon.

35. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 34, wherein the video icon of the user interface enables the participant to receive video stream feeds.

36. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further includes a presentation icon.

37. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further includes an application sharing icon.

38. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the local user interface further includes a report icon.

39. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further includes a media manager icon.

40. The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the participant can select a particular presentation to view.

41. A method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices in a free flow collaboration session, wherein the method comprises:

connecting two or more client devices in a collaboration session;

configuring a first client device to present information to at least one other client device in the collaboration session;

configuring a second client device to present information to at least one other client device in the collaboration session; and

enabling the first client device and the second client device to present their respective information at any time in the collaboration session.

42. A method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices in a free flow collaboration session, wherein the method comprises:

connecting two or more client devices in a collaboration session, wherein each client device includes a central presentation region;

configuring a first client device to present information to the central presentation region;

configuring a second client device to present information to the
central presentation region; and

assigning control of the central presentation region to the client
device that most recently presents information to the central presentation
region.